

# The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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An Independent Christian Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Modernism, Worldliness and Formalism.

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## The Song of the Angels

By Charles H. Spurgeon  
Long pastor The Metropolitan Tabernacle, London,  
Died 1892, Often called "The Prince of Preachers"

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."—Luke 2:13, 14.

Angels had been present on many august occasions, and they had joined in many a solemn chorus to the praise of their Almighty Creator. They were present at the creation: "The morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy." They had seen many a planet fashioned between the palms of Jehovah, and wheeled by His eternal hands through the infinitude of space. They had sung solemn songs over

many a world which the Great One had created. We doubt not they had often chanted "Blessing and honor, and glory, and majesty, and power, and dominion, and might, be unto him that sitteth on the throne," manifesting Himself in the work of creation. I doubt not, too, that their songs had gathered force through ages. As when first created, their first breath was song, so when they saw God create new worlds, then their song received another note; they rose a little higher in the gamut of adoration.

But this time, when they saw God stoop from His throne and become a babe, hanging upon a woman's breast, they lifted their notes higher still; and reaching to the uttermost stretch of angelic music, they gained the highest notes of the living scale of praise, and they sang, "Glory to God in the highest," for higher in goodness they felt God could not go. Thus their highest praise they gave to Him in the highest act of His Godhead.

If it be true that there is a hierarchy of angels, rising tier upon tier in magnificence and dignity—if the apostle teaches us that there be "angels, and principalities, and powers, and thrones, and dominions," amongst these

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Charles H. Spurgeon

## Glad Christmas Tidings

By Evangelist John R. Rice, D.D., Litt. D.

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."—Luke 2:8-11

Christmastime! How much there is to rejoice our hearts at the holiday season!

I will be with my family this Christmas; much of the year I have been away from home. I will be with my dear wife, who has walked by my side these thirty-five years. For forty years, ever since I met her, I have never wanted to be away from her at Christmastime.

I will be with Sarah Joy, nineteen. Such short years ago she sat in the high chair beside me at the table, said she was "Daddy's gerril." Now she is a junior in Wheaton College, on the honor roll, a sweet Christian with a beautiful voice and a tender conscience. I will be with Joanna, who has already finished college and helps me in the office. Serious, frank, gifted, she is proud of a ring on her left hand, with dreams and plans for next June. Mary

Lloys and Chuck Himes will come often with the four grandchildren. So will Walt and Libby Handford and the two little ones, Allan and Grace MacMullen will be in Canada with his people for Christmas, but they will be here much of the time. Don Sandberg and Jessie will come from Moline for part of the Christmas season.

I say, I will be with my family at Christmas, praise the Lord! But I know better tidings than that to Christians at Christmas.

There will be heavy mail during the Christmas season. I am often very tired, sometimes discouraged, during the long, hard pull of the years. But at Christmastime there will come greetings of love and appreciation from friends all over the world. Once again I will remember the very many who love and pray for me, and my heart will be comforted over the bruises and wounds which a true prophet of God must have. Oh, thank God for the comfort of Christmas!

But the good tidings of Christmas mean more than that.

God willing, I will see long-loved friends and dear ones, will rest and eat and rejoice with those I love. How blessed will be the Christmas season!

But I know better news than this!

The best news about Christmas is the tidings brought by the angels to the shepherds in Judaea, and written for all the world. "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Dear reader, I beg you this Christmas season not to be absorbed in things of the world. Thank God for presents, thank God for Christmas cards, thank God for the holiday season, good things to eat, leisure and visiting

### Emmanuel

"God with us" in this world of sin,  
This life of weakness and of woe:  
His love, His power and His strength  
With us, wherever we may go,  
Since Jesus came to earth to dwell  
And be for aye Emmanuel.

No weary days, no starless nights,  
No sorrow deep, no trial sore,  
But we can feel His presence near,  
"God with us," now and evermore;  
Since He hath come to earth to dwell  
Whose name is still Emmanuel.

—Annie Johnson Flint

loved ones. But above everything else, let us remember to praise the Lord with overflowing hearts for the message of Christmas; that Jesus, a Saviour, came into the world to save us!

Let us consider the Scripture given here and teach our hearts to rejoice at the Christmas tidings.

### I. Tidings of Joy

"Fear not," said the angel, "for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy." Christmas tidings are happy tidings.

How hard it is for us to believe that God means good for us! In the Garden of Eden, when Adam sinned, he ran and hid himself from God, who longed to walk with him and have communion with him. God called to Adam, "Where art thou?" (Gen. 3:9). Sin made Adam afraid. Sin has made every human being since Adam afraid of God. When Jesus talked to Nicodemus about the new birth and gave that blessed verse in John 3:16, then it was necessary for him to assure us unbelieving sinners that "God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved" (John 3:17).

The angels have good news for us, if we would only believe it! This angel said to the startled shepherds who were so afraid, "Fear not!" The angel had said the same thing to Zacharias, when he met with him to announce the coming birth of John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus, "Fear not, Zacharias" (Luke 1:13). When the angel came to Mary to announce to her the conception of the Saviour, he must say, "Fear not" since "she was troubled at his saying." "Fear not, Mary: for" (Continued on page 6)

### When the Christ Was Born

When the dear Lord came to earth  
That first Christmas morn,  
Something to the world unknown  
With the Christ was born.

Something holy, tender, true,  
Noble, sweet and pure,  
Love that joyed in sacrifice,  
Patient to endure.

Love that gave without return,  
Asking but to bless,  
Helping, soothing, serving still  
Sorrow and distress.

And each Christmas morning since,  
As the years pass on,  
Shows the love that never yet  
From the earth has gone;

Thoughts grow tender; hearts grow kind;  
Grief forgets to mourn,  
Touches by that diviner love  
That with Christ was born.

—Annie Johnson Flint

## JUDGMENT

By Dr. Bob Jones, Sr.

Founder Bob Jones University, Greenville, South Carolina

"For it is written, as I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me and every tongue shall confess to God. So then, every one of us shall give an account of himself to God."

These are solemn words, but they are written in this Bible, God's book. They are written with the finger of inspiration in the fourteenth chapter of Romans, verses 11 and 12.

Now, since some day I am to stand in the presence of God, I'm glad to give an account of myself to Him. I am glad that my mother is not to give an account of me. I think my mother would do everything she could for me. She was a wonderful mother. But my mother didn't always understand me. I am glad that Mrs. Jones—to whom I have been married for more than forty years—is not to give an account of me. She would help me out all she could, but she hasn't always understood me. I am glad that my best friends are not to give an account of me. Many of my friends have stood by me through great difficulties, and sometimes when I've fought great battles, or for moral principles. But these friends don't always understand me. And I am certainly glad my enemies are not to give an account of me. Some of them would

give a bad report. I am glad that I am to give an account of myself to God.

### God Knows the Truth About You

Yet, you know, my friends, that is a very solemn thought. I'm accountable to God for my character and not for my reputation. I am accountable to God for what I am, not for what men think I am. My character is what God knows me to be, and my reputation is what men think I am. Sometimes a man may have one kind of character and another kind of reputation. A man may have a bad character and a good reputation, and it is possible to have a good character and a bad reputation. Some men will dip their tongue in the slime of slander and speak the death warrant to the reputation of good people.

Years ago there lived in this country a notable preacher, pastor of a great church, who preached the Gospel in a wonderful way. Everybody loved him and believed in him. One day an awful rumor got out on that minister, and people believed it. They took his credentials away from him; he was kicked out of his church. He shut himself up in his home. He wouldn't go up town; he didn't

see anybody. After a few weeks, one day he fell dead. The doctor said he died of a broken heart. A few weeks after he was dead, all the rumors proved to be false. Though he died disgraced in the eyes of men, yet in the eyes of God he was pure.

Yes, sometimes men think we are bad when we are good, but

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Dr. Bob Jones, Sr.



## THE EDITOR'S Notes

by John R. Rice

When this is written, Tuesday, December 4, we still have a good way to go on the subscription campaign, and we cannot foretell the outcome. We now estimate that, with subscription gifts for our Ministers and Missionary Subscription Fund, the total subscriptions for the campaign will probably reach 20,000, which is not nearly enough to keep up with the expirations. So we have at present a reduced circulation. But we thank God for these approximately 20,000 subscriptions and we pray that the Lord will give greater blessing than ever to the messages sent out.

### Plan to Send a Quota of 25 or More Subscriptions in 1957

There is a well-defined principle in the Lord's work, that those who are saved send the Gospel to the lost, those who are well taught teach others, those who have given to those who have not. The expense and trouble of revival efforts are not provided by the unsaved who are to be won in the revival, but by Christians who care. Church buildings are not built and paid for by those who may get saved there, but by others who are already saved and who make these provisions for others. Sunday Schools are not manned and built and equipped and taught by the children and young people and new converts, as much as by the older, well-taught, well-established Christians. Those who are to preach the Gospel are sent forth and educated and trained by others who are already established Christians.

On this well-established Bible principle, it is to be expected that good Christians will send THE SWORD OF THE LORD to new converts, or to those not well established in the faith. Bible believers will send THE SWORD OF THE LORD to those who need the establishment in solid doctrine, the growth in Christian life, those who need to learn to win souls. Saved people will send THE SWORD OF THE LORD to lost people. Older Christians will send it to young preachers, to less mature Christians.

It is on this basis that churches pay for Sunday School literature instead of selling the quarterlies to the pupils. It is on this basis that in all the major denominations many churches put the denominational magazine in the church budget and pay for it so it can be sent to others who do not know their need, or are not acquainted with the magazine, or have not yet developed a taste for it, or do not know how much good it would do them. So, we believe that well-taught, Bible-believing Christians who are burdened about the spread of the Gospel, the defense of the faith, the stirring of revival fires should send THE

SWORD OF THE LORD to tens of thousands of others.

We suggest that every Christian reading THE SWORD OF THE LORD should prayerfully consider taking a quota of 25 subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD which you will send in the first three months of 1957. If you will undertake to send 25 subscriptions, we will give you a rock-bottom rate for quantity subscriptions. You need not send all the 25 at one time. You may get the subscriptions at a special SWORD Sunday in your church, or you may show samples of THE SWORD OF THE LORD and get others to pay for them, or you may pay for them yourself, but we need thousands of loyal readers who will make a holy investment for Christ in sending THE SWORD OF THE LORD to at least 25 new homes during January, February, and March, 1957. Will you be one of these?

If you will write us agreeing to undertake to send 25 subscriptions, at a special rock-bottom rate, during the first quarter of 1957, we will send you subscription blanks with a special rate, post cards which you may address to the people for whom you subscribe, if you wish, and our special offer. You may send 25 or more subscriptions either by getting your church to put THE SWORD in the budget, or by having a special SWORD Sunday, or by selling subscriptions to others, or by paying for them yourself. Will you tell us you will accept a quota of 25 subscriptions in January, February, and March, in 1957?

### Sunday School Teachers Need Help for Lessons on Matthew

The first 16 weeks of 1957 the International Sunday School lessons deal with the Gospel According to Matthew. Sunday School teachers and pastors in churches using these lessons often look for help in the study of the Scriptures, help beyond that given in quarterlies. We suggest that the Editor's big commentary on Matthew called *The King of the Jews*, 504 pages, written very simply explaining the Scriptures, answering questions, bringing in thousands of other references on the same subjects, will be ideal for teachers teaching the book of Matthew. Think of having at your finger tips comments on every verse in the Gospel According to Matthew, while studying it or teaching it in the Sunday School! This commentary is different in simplicity of language, warm-hearted application of the Scriptures, and popular, easy reading style. We are grateful that Dr. Robert G. Lee, of famous Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tennessee, writes, "This is, for me, the best," and that everywhere the book has been hailed as scholarly, heart-warming, thorough and reliable. It is particularly valuable in that it gives help on the premillennial coming of Christ and dispensational truth, which is discussed or referred to so often in the book of Matthew. Beautiful library binding, black, red, and white, only \$4.50 plus 20c postage and



By Grace Rice MacMullen

### What's Different About a Christian's Christmas?

Christmas is not now, as it was once, centered in the church. It is a universal celebration that has been adopted by the world. Now everybody says "Merry Christmas!" everybody has manger scenes, everybody talks about the Bethlehem star.

What's different about Christmas for a Christian? We sing the same songs as our next-door neighbor; we, too, decorate our homes for the holiday season; we, too, send out Christmas cards. Is the Christmas we observe really different?

Well, since this is supposed to be a music column, let's start with the Christmas songs. There ought to be some difference, and here is one important place where it should show. Others can sing about "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"; our favorite Christmas songs can be "Joy to the World" and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing." For others, perhaps "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" is a moving thought; to the Christian, the song of a babe laid "Away in a Manger" is far more moving. Certainly we can sing some of the more light-hearted ones, but the heart of our Christmas is wrapped up in the great songs bequeathed us by Christians singing the greatest song of all, "Christ the Saviour is born!"

Our celebration of Christmas is different, too. Not in night clubs or noisy "office parties" but in a candle-decked church or a tree-lit home we find the song of Christmas rings clear. Our Christmas services and our family gatherings at home feature carols and Bible reading, perhaps, and praises to God. For so much of our country, Christmas "spirits" come in a bottle and are regretted afterwards. The proper celebration of Christmas leaves a glow of a different kind; one that stays joyful.

Our gifts are different, too. We try to give gifts that will bless and inspire and help. We try to make our Christmas cards messengers of grace.

But the biggest and best difference about our Christmas is that it isn't limited to December. We can keep on having Christmas joy all year! Perhaps it is most of all that the world stops thinking about Christ after Christmas.

(Continued on page 6)

handling charges. Better get this for the teacher at your house. Sold in best bookstores. Or order from Sword of the Lord Publishers, 214 West Wesley, Wheaton, Illinois.

### Have a Sword Calendar on Your Desk or Mantel or Kitchen Cabinet!

Some 5,000 people, we suppose, have received by this time the new Sword of the Lord calendar for 1957. It is unique for convenience and usefulness, and sits easily on desk, mantel, kitchen cabinet. It is decorative and cheerful and adds a spiritual note. The calendar consists of an attractive stand-up package. Each month has a separate Scripture to warm and challenge the heart. When the month is gone, pull out the January calendar and you will find it is an envelope addressed to The Sword of the Lord, requiring no postage, in which you may make any contribution you may wish to the missionary and soul-winning work we carry on. And that leaves February's calendar exposed and a new verse of Scripture. Thousands want to help in this work as God makes it possible. Here you will always have a convenient envelope at hand, requiring no stamp if you enclose a gift either for the Sword Building Fund, for the Free Literature Fund, or for the Ministers and Missionary Subscription Fund.

You may have this package calendar free. We are glad to send it to everyone who requests it whether you can send an offering

## Christmas Greetings From the Editor

Through the fast running years it has become practically impossible for us to send Christmas letters or greeting cards to the many dear friends we would so gladly remember at the Christmas season. Time, expense, and the impossibility of remembering every one we know and love make that out of the question.

But I beg you, do not believe that I am unmindful of you this Christmastime. To the readers of THE SWORD OF THE LORD, to those who hold us up in prayer and to those who support with offerings the various phases of the Lord's work entrusted to us, the editor sends his heartfelt wishes for your happiness. May the God of all grace, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, pour upon you abundantly His blessings this Christmastime.

Much of the world is sad and fearful. Even in our own country, where perhaps the gaunt wolf of need and poverty does not camp on the door step, millions have heartaches over loved ones, broken homes, prodigal children, the curse of drink and the wages of sin everywhere. In the midst of all the sorrow and pain, you may have the heart-song of the angels, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14). For a sad world in darkness and sin God has the good news, "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11).

Christmas has been so commercialized, so materialized, that happiness to many people depends on money, on possessions, on gifts of things. People who have a table loaded with good things, including chicken, complain that they could not have turkey! People who have health and peace, and in their own homes security and safety, with food, health, and comfortable clothing, bemoan the fact that they cannot take long and expensive trips. Mothers will weep if they cannot buy more toys for children who are very happy with what they have. Those who have little money feel like they have little Christmas. How silly and worldly and unchristian is such a conception of the Christmas season!

We need to learn that "a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the thing which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15). Whisky and revelry and ribald laughter do not make Christmas. All of us properly enjoy typical Christmas celebrations, but even Christmas trees, and shining ornaments, and twinkling lights, and evergreens and carols and gayly wrapped packages do not make Christmas. After all, Christmas, the real spirit of Christmas, is a matter of the heart.

We do not know that it was December 25 when our Saviour was born in Bethlehem. The Bible does not give the exact date and no one can tell us for sure. Yet we do well to remember the birth of our Saviour once a year. And if Christmas means anything to a Christian, surely it ought to mean rejoicing over the birth of the Saviour. It ought to mean a new dedication of heart and life. It ought to mean making others happy in Jesus' name.

You will have family reunions. Why not make them a time of spiritual refreshing and rejoicing in God's blessings? Many of you will have a holiday, some extra leisure. Why not use it in Christian reading, in prayer, in soul winning, in enjoying your family and Christian friends? And do not forget, if we can't have money we can still have Christ and the Bible and the comforts of the Holy Spirit. We still have a home in Heaven. Salvation is still free and the fullness of the Spirit is better than all the wealth of the banks and the treasures of the stores.

Do you have the love of a good wife? Do you have your family about you, with good health and a roof over your heads? Do you have peace with God and with men? You live in a land not torn with war. You are not persecuted for your faith in Christ. God's bountiful blessings are all about you. Then rejoice in the Lord this Christmas season and remember that God's greatest gift is His dear Son. All who have Christ are rich beyond the dreams of Midas and all who do not have Him are miserable paupers though they be surrounded with the wealth of the whole world!

With grateful heart for every friend, every prayer-partner, and reader, every subscriber, every well-wisher, I am

In Christ's dear name, your blood-bought brother,

*John R. Rice*  
Ps 126:6, Luke 11:13



AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING REVIVAL WEEKLY

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each month or not. Simply say, "Please send me a Sword calendar pack," and it will come at once. Then you will have the calendar, a reminder of The Sword of the Lord, and you can pray for us and help as God lays it on your heart. If you did not get a calendar, please write at once.

### Save on Income Tax—Rush Your Gifts Before January 1

The Sword of the Lord Foundation is a non-profit corporation chartered under the laws of Illinois, recognized by the Federal government. Gifts to The Sword of the Lord Foundation may be deducted from taxable income. We have assurance from the Federal government on this matter. Our receipt is sufficient evidence. All are allowed to deduct from taxable income gifts to regular churches

and recognized non-profit corporations up to 20% of one's income for the year. We suggest that you rush your gift to The Sword of the Lord for the Free Literature Fund, the Ministers and Missionary Subscription Fund, or the Sword Building Fund before January 1, so you will save on your income tax. That means \$100 gifts now will cost you only \$80. A \$100 gift now will save even the poorest person \$20 on income tax. Those in higher income brackets, you can save much more. Also, business corporations are now allowed to give to non-profit corporations and have deduction on taxes also. The government encourages you to give to Christ's causes and save on your income tax. Rush your letter and we will return a receipt at once. Address The Sword of the Lord, 214 West Wesley, Wheaton, Illinois.



## A Lesson in Giving From

## The Story of the Game of

## Chess

By Viola Walden and Charles Vradenburgh

True are the inspired words of the Preacher-King, Solomon of old, as he commented on life for man "under the sun"—even such an honorable, royal, splendorous life as was his—"Vanity of vanities; all is vanity" (Eccles. 1:1, 2).

The historical origin of the game of chess seems to be lost in antiquity, though it has been variously attributed to Greeks, Romans, Babylonians, Scythians, Hindus, Arabians, Jews, Irish and Welsh. Some efforts at establishing the fact of the individual inventor of the game have been made, among those being named is King Solomon himself. One interesting legend advanced, however, without naming individuals or even a given era of history, runs as follows:

A certain king, being bored with the affairs of state and the luxurious existence of humdrum royalty, called together his cabinet of counsellors, demanding of them to develop, over a limited period of time, some workable and appealing plan, scheme or pastime for him whereby the monotony of his drab existence could be lessened. Failure to present such a plan, scheme or pastime that would serve to vitally capture the attention and amusement of the king, and maintain his interest for a period of at least 24 hours would

2 grains for the second, 4 grains for the third; sixteen grains for the fourth, etc., squaring the grains for each of the 64 squares of the chessboard. If you have the patience, and that mathematical turn of mind to work at it, you will find that again the wise counsellor proved his wisdom in the matter of his choice of reward.

Now, this we tell to illustrate the manner in which you can help advance the work of the Gospel here at the Sword of the Lord by your prayers and by regular, systematic giving throughout the coming year. And to help and encourage you to do this, we have prepared and sent out several thousands of beautiful blue calendar packs (see illustration below on this page) to contributors in times past. If you did not get one of these desk, mantle or wall calendar packs, we want you to have one, for the inspiration and help it would be to you personally, as well as for your convenience in helping us with the great work of



cost—the king's counsellors the honor of their positions; whereas success in the matter would result in bounteous awards, even to a quarter of the kingdom.

The allotted time passed, and the royal cabinet was convened at the order of the king. In response to the king's ultimatum, after some little hesitancy, one of the counsellors stepped forward, laying before the majesty the board and markers which ever since have constituted the internationally famous game, now commonly known as chess. Immediately capturing the interest of the king as he began to explain the game's procedure, with the king as his contestant, the royal family and other counsellors as eager spectators, the happy counsellor engaged his royal highness in round after round, proving each time the master of his own invention; nevertheless maintaining the ever growing interest and delight of his losing monarch.

Voluminous were the king's praises of his wise counsellor at the end of the 24-hour period of play, wherein, beyond expectation of degree, the king's interest was vigorously maintained, as well as the interest and delight of all the spectators, especially those of the royal cabinet, whose position and honor were thereby assured. When proffered the award, according to his own choice, even unto a quarter of the kingdom, however, the wise counsellor demurred to accept all apparently valuable and honorable prizes. Rather, according to his own suggestion, he asked that a grain of wheat be given him for the first block of the chessboard,

getting out the saving Gospel of our blessed Lord Jesus Christ through the various funds of the Sword of the Lord Foundation.

Somewhat akin to the wise choice of the legendary inventor of the game of chess, we suggest a plan of giving through the use of this calendar pack, which is far within the realm of possibility, and which really ought to be so, if God's people would rise to the occasion, and do only a minimum of what should be done in this matter. This is the plan:

Decide upon some amount of money you may give each MONTH. You may want to save it up daily, or weekly, but send it in monthly. As a matter of fact, 10,000 children, students, widows, and others could give one cent a day for this great work—\$3.65 for each for the year. There are 10,000 men and women, young couples, and others who could give five cents a day to this glorious work—\$18.25 each for the year 1957. There are 1,000 people over the U.S.A. who could put for the glory of the Lord one dollar per day into His work here—\$365.00 each. There are 1,000 individuals who could rightly invest fifty cents a day for Him here—\$182.50 each. There are 500 spiritual ones who could well put two dollars per day to working for Him here—\$730 each. There are one hundred choice ones who could put on the altar for Him three dollars per day—\$1,095 each. An occasional investor in heavenly treasures could put \$10,000; \$25,000; \$50,000, or \$100,000 into the greatest work in the world for Him!

If, to help you help us in this

## Liquor Ruined These Lives

Book Review on, *The Cup of Fury*, a new volume by Upton Sinclair

Reviewed by Evangelist Walt Handford

One of the most horrible indictments of alcohol ever written has recently come from the pen of veteran writer, Upton Sinclair. Some of the references to religious matters are inadequate and the author's socialistically-biased political views unfortunately appear now and then. But the overall moral teaching of this volume is powerfully shocking.

This is the story of seventy-five friends of the author—many of them famous—who were victims of alcohol. Of this list of novelists, playwrights, poets and stars of stage and screen, Sinclair watched some forty of them go to their doom, eleven as suicides. His own father died with the delirium tremens and three of his uncles were "problem drinkers."

Across the stage of his own lifetime, Sinclair makes to realistically walk, weave and stumble great literary people such as Jack London and O. Henry. You see their star of fame soar upward until overtaken by John Barleycorn and then watch as it falls, extinguished into a sea of liquor.

The author's absorbing style paints in stark realism the grim picture of lives ruined by liquor. In his autobiographical flight Sinclair occasionally rambles about some non-consequential detail of his own life, but always he returns to pursue with diligence his main thesis—that alcohol is a destroyer of lives, talent, homes, careers and love. He produces figures showing that one out of every sixteen drinkers will become an alcoholic and one of every nine a "problem drinker." From these figures he rightly deduces that no one should touch alcohol in any form and denounces "social drinking." Alarming facts are presented on drinking among college students and its probable effect on future leadership in America.

But more impressive than all of these facts and figures is the tragic presentation of the wrecked lives alcohol produces. The most graphic of all is the recounting of the rise and fall of author Jack London. You follow the pitfall story as he gradually becomes the slave of whiskey, letting it kill his writing productivity and how he finally takes his own life with poison. It is the story of H. L. Mencken, Douglas Fairbanks, John Barrymore and the Duke of Windsor, of Sinclair Lewis, George Sterling, Edna St. Vincent Millay and F. Scott Fitzgerald—all of whom are (or were when living) alcoholics. He pulls no punches, covers up for no one, yet writes kindly the sad truth of what liquor has done to blight these lives.

This book should be a great deterrent to drinking for young people who will honestly read it and for others who drink but are not yet alcoholic. It furnishes good

(Continued bottom next column)

plan for giving, you have not received already your handy calendar pack with its twelve business reply, postage-paid envelopes—one for each month of the year—please drop us a note or card (Sword of the Lord, 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois) with your name and address, mentioning simply "CALENDAR PACK," and we will rush you your calendar pack by return mail. We will deeply appreciate regular gifts, large or small, from those who feel led to help in this great missionary work.

(NOTE: We are sorry, but postal regulations forbid the use of business reply, postage-paid envelopes printed in the United States by friends in Canada and other foreign countries; therefore we are not able to send calendar packs to these places. This, however, does not mean that Christians in these countries cannot send their prayerful gifts by the use of their own envelopes and postage. You can, and we trust that many of you will continue, and others will begin, if you have not done so heretofore.)

## Is the Tithe Fair for All Christians?

By the Editor

Dear Mrs. W.:

Thank you for your letter with its question about tithing. I will try to answer you if I can.

## 1. Your Letter Wrongly Assumes That Tithing Is a Hardship

People sometimes say they cannot afford to tithe. They are mistaken. Both from the Bible and experience it is easy to prove that people who tithe prosper more than those who do not tithe, have their needs supplied better than those who do not tithe. Note the following Scriptures:

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."—Mal. 3:10.

"The liberal soul shall be made fat; and he that watereth shall be watered also himself."—Prov. 11:25.

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give unto your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."—Luke 6:38.

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully."—II Cor. 9:6.

My own experience proves beyond any doubt that those who tithe in answer to God's command are thereby trusting Him and making it possible for God to provide. Thousands of other Christians have told me they had proved this truth. The man who starts tithing at \$50 a week is likely to soon get more than \$50 a week. And if he does not get an increase in salary he will find that \$45 a week with God's blessing reaches farther and buys more than \$50 a week would without God's blessing. So you should never feel sorry for anybody who tithes. They will be blessed for it and prospered by it. Why should the man with a large family miss the blessing and help when he needs it even more perhaps than a man without a family?

## 2. You Wrongly Assume That a Big Family Is a Burden

The happiest people I have ever known were in large families. Certainly it is necessary to economize to take care of a big family. Big families may have to eat more potatoes or macaroni and cheese, more bread and milk and not so much meat. A little stew meat or a soup bone or dry salt pork is wonderfully good in a large family who loves the Lord. I know from experience in my father's large family and in my own large family. With six daughters, of course, some of them wear the outgrown clothes of the others, and all of them have to work some to help make their way. But what of it?

grist for the temperance mill and will provide an abundance of illustrations for preachers. We earnestly suggest preachers and teachers get this book.

Published by Channel Press, Great Neck, New York, this 190-page clothbound book sells for \$3.00. If ordered from Sword of the Lord, Wheaton, Illinois, add 15c postage.

## Important Memo--

## WHEN YOU CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS

Please report both new and old addresses directly to THE SWORD OF THE LORD, five weeks before the change is to take effect. Copies that we address to your old address will not be delivered by the Post Office unless you pay them extra postage. Avoid this unnecessary expense by notifying us five weeks in advance.

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I would rather have the children than the money, and the children would rather have each other than to have luxuries. And there has always been enough by hard work and faith and contented mind. I certainly would not want anybody feeling sorry for me because I have a nice large family, and I do not see how any honest man could think it was a hardship for him to treat God right and bring a tithe as commanded just because he had the extra blessing of a large family. If anybody ought to be glad to trust the Lord and glad to praise Him and glad to bring Him tithes and love-gifts, it ought to be the Christians who have the blessing of a large family.

In fact, people in a large family may need to tithe worse than others do. They need the Lord's help more, and His help is plainly promised to those who tithe. Honesty with God in this matter is one of the best guarantees that He will help a father and mother take care of a large family.

## 3. Tithing Is a Great Privilege; a Joy, Not a Burden

Tithing represents our love for God. Should not poor people have the right to express their love for God the same as others? Should not a man who has been blessed with a large family want to obey God as much as anybody else? And, thank God, by the wonderful promises God has given, the poor man with a large family is guaranteed that he can afford to tithe. God promises to take care of him in the matter and to supply his needs.

Tithing is a symbol of our faith. If Jesus says, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things [food, drink, clothes] shall be added unto you," as He does say in Matthew 6:33, then if I believe Him and risk Him, I can afford to tithe. Should the man with a family trust God less than the man without a family? Should a man with ten children trust God less than the man with one child? Tithing is a privilege.

Once a committee from a church was calling on the members, trying to collect money for the church budget. They came to a poor widow's bare home. She washed clothes to make a meager living for herself and her children. When the committee saw her poverty, they were embarrassed to tell why they came, but she brought \$5 from a hiding place and gave it to the committee—a good deal more than many wealthier members had given. Embarrassed, the leader of the committee protested that she could not afford to give so much, and that they must not take the money. She thrust it into his hands and began to weep. "You want to take away my blessing!" she said. "I love the Lord as much as the rest of you! It is my church and I love it and I want to do my part. You want to take away my joy!" Greatly humbled, the committee went away with the gift.

It is not a hardship to give to God and support His work. Tithing is a deep joy to everyone who does it in Jesus' name. It is a constant privilege. It leads to material blessings, it leads to spiritual blessings untold. How sad it would be to take that privilege from any man because he had a large family.

You see, God does not need our money. Because He loves us, He allows us to give it for our own blessing, to have a part in His wonderful work and to be His partners in that work.

I hope the above explanation will be a help to you. I assure you with long experience as a pastor and an evangelist, I have never, never known a case where people tithed and trusted the Lord for His blessing that they did not find themselves wonderfully repaid, even in material things.

In the Saviour's name, yours,  
JOHN R. RICE



# The Habecker Team Available

By Dr. Bill Rice, Director  
Sword Staff of Evangelists, 214 W. Wesley, Wheaton, Illinois

Evangelist Ernie Habecker is the youngest member of the Sword Staff of Evangelists from point of service, and he is also the youngest man on the Staff. But Paul's injunction to Timothy, "Let no man despise thy youth," certainly applies to this young dynamo! Men sometimes forget that it is God who calls and equips the evangelist. And those who know Ernie Habecker agree that the hand of the Lord is surely on him, and he has been richly endowed with the gifts so vital to this great work.

Although a young man, he has the kind of commonsense that enables him to think things through clearly. As I dictate this, I am conducting a union revival campaign in which the largest and strongest co-operating church is one that Evangelist Habecker established several years ago when he first entered the ministry. And again and again in revivals, he has met difficult situations with such spiritual insight and wisdom that pastors have been gratefully impressed.

He not only has a great deal of commonsense, but he has an abundance of enthusiasm and zeal. He preaches in the pulpit and visits in the home with an earnestness and vigor that is refreshing. He works hard: I heard him speak to a group of young people two summers ago. His message was very simple, but many of the young people came forward when he gave the invitation.

As a matter of fact, this young man has many conversions in his meetings. Last year he went to the Cayman Islands at his own expense and, in several weeks of preaching, there were 171 conversions.

I have just received a letter from Pastor Bill Davis of the Grand Avenue Baptist Church in Oklahoma City who had Evangelist Habecker and his singer in a revival recently. He writes, "We had 29 conversions, 7 who joined the church by letter, 1 who surrendered to preach, 25 rededications, and 25 mothers and fathers dedicating their homes to God. I highly recommend Brother Ernie to any church. We also broke our



Evangelist E. Habecker

Sunday School attendance record."

I have just received a report of his revival with the Westwood Church of Coatesville, Pennsylvania, in which there were 27 conversions.

In a meeting in Delaware there were 52 conversions; in Tower City, Pennsylvania, Brother Habecker reported 46 conversions. In Modena, Pennsylvania, there were 69 conversions, and in Elkton, Maryland, there were 39 conversions.

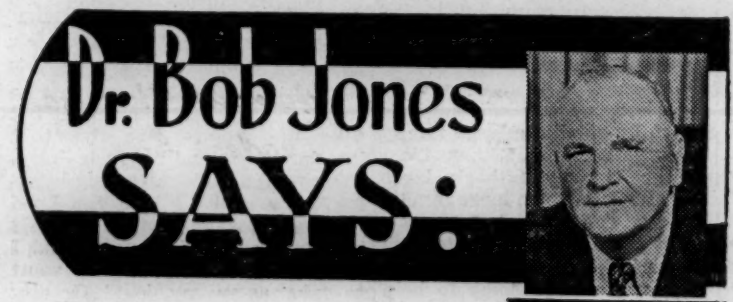
Grant Nelson, a splendid young soloist and song leader from Chattanooga, Tennessee, works with Ernie, and these two young men make a splendid team.

Like the other men on the Sword Staff of Evangelists, Evangelist Habecker puts no price on his services. We simply request that transportation be paid from the point of last engagement, board and room provided, and a love offering taken the last three nights of the campaign.

We are now planning itineraries for the coming year, and for dates and further information, you may write directly to Evangelist Habecker, in care of this paper, or to Evangelist Bill Rice, Director, Sword Staff of Evangelists, 214 West Wesley, Wheaton, Illinois.

## DON'T LET YOUR SUBSCRIPTION EXPIRE

To be safe, better check your label. If the figure by your name is 12-56, it's time to RENEW NOW!



I wish we could pass on to our friends all the wonderful things that our former students write us. I quote from a letter recently received from a very fine graduate who is doing a wonderful work for God.

He says: "During the last five years, I have had some of the most adventurous and exciting times in my whole Christian life; and it is because at Bob Jones University I learned how to really enjoy the Christian life. My thanks can never be big enough, but I do want to make them as big as I can. Enclosed is a small gift."

This young man sent \$60 for the Missionary Fund, the Student Loan Endowment Fund, and for the work of Bob Jones University. As many of you friends know, we are in the thirtieth year of Bob Jones University; and how wonderfully God has been to spare my life through these years and keep me active in His service and give me the stimulating reports from all over the world about the work of Bob Jones University as well as

about my evangelistic work. Won't you people who read this stop just a minute and pray that God will keep on pouring His Spirit out upon this Christian university, and keep on praying day by day. Won't you help us contact the right kind of young people and turn them to Bob Jones University so we can train strong Christian leaders because there are dark days ahead of this world, and Christian leadership is going to be needed more than ever before. Here is another thing you can do. You can invest some of God's money in this work. God has been good to the school, but there are so many places where we could use money to propagate the testimony of the university. There is so much to be done for God in these trying days. Whatever the Lord leads you to do will be greatly appreciated.

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# WITH THE Evangelists

REPORTS FROM AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING SOUL WINNERS

By the Editor

(NOTE: We are happy to publish honest reports of blessed revivals from trustworthy evangelists and churches. However, if you send us your report for publication, PLEASE give exact statistics, as far as possible, concerning conversions, rededications, additions, etc., or we may not print it. We especially appreciate reports from pastors and chairmen of union campaigns.)

Sword of the Lord **EVANGELIST J. OSCAR WELLS**, Box 417, Bethany, Okla., has just completed two splendid revival campaigns in the South. In a revival campaign with the Good News Baptist Church of Madison, North Carolina, Rev. Cecil Wright, pastor, there were 29 conversions and 8 rededications. This, we understand, was perhaps the best revival the church there has ever had. The entire membership was greatly revived and helped during days of soul winning and refreshing.

Evangelist Wells also conducted a revival campaign with the Fairview Baptist Church of Watauga, Tennessee. During this campaign, there were 23 conversions and 12 rededications.

Other pastors who would like to consider Evangelist Wells in their 1957 itinerary may write to Evangelist Bill Rice, director, Sword Staff of Evangelists, 214 West Wesley, Wheaton, Illinois, for further dates and information.

Sword of the Lord **EVANGELIST PAUL FERGUSON**, 1912 Vance Avenue, Chattanooga, Tenn., conducted a splendid revival campaign with the Mount Olivet Baptist Church of Charleston, West Virginia. The Rev. Ronald F. Smith is pastor of this church. According to the evangelist, Mr. Smith was a wonderful man to work with, who co-operated in every way. And the pastor wrote Evangelist Bill Rice, "I can honestly say that these meetings were the best we have had in the three years of my pastorate here. Evangelist Ferguson is an ardent soul winner and a fervent preacher of the Word of God. I heartily recommend him."

There were 37 conversions and 25 rededications during this revival campaign. Others who may be interested in the services of Evangelist Ferguson, the ex-champion boxer who now gives his full time to the Lord in revival meetings, may write directly to Evangelist Ferguson or to Evangelist Bill Rice, director, Sword Staff of Evangelists, 214 West Wesley, Wheaton, Illinois.

**EVANGELIST THOMAS E. BERRY**, 105 E. College Avenue, Brownsburg, Indiana, 23 years old, graduate of Bob Jones University, has entered full-time revival work. October 14-28 he had revival services in Coatsville Baptist Church, Coatsville, Indiana, with 34 professions of faith. Other successful revival services were held in the Baptist Temple in Columbus, Ohio, for one week, with about 30 coming forward for conversion and rededication. He has some time open in December and January and may be contacted at address given.

Brent Baptist Church, Rev. Dolphus L. Price, pastor, will be host to an evangelistic, premillennial conference, December 26-28, at Pensacola, Florida. Free meals and beds will be furnished all preachers who write ahead of time to Dolphus L. Price, Route 7, Box 140, c/o Brent Baptist Church. Invited speakers include Brethren Hugh Pyle, Dick Melton, Dr. Monroe Parker, Dr. Lee Roberson, Bill Compton, Bob Gray, Jack Hyles, and others. A blessed time is expected.

**EVANGELIST BOB OUGHTON**, P.O. Box 50, Belleville, Illinois, saw 28 people accept Christ as Saviour in a revival campaign conducted at the Mizpah Presbyterian

Church, Paducah, Kentucky. Twenty families agreed to tithe and many family altars were established. Rev. Joe C. Gardner, pastor, reports that "God's power was felt in the hearts of the people. The church was greatly revived."

Thirty-six first-time decisions were made in a revival campaign conducted by **EVANGELIST ERNIE HABECKER**, 700 East Bowman Drive, Oklahoma City 10, Oklahoma, at the People's Gospel Church of Georgetown, Delaware. Eleven rededications were reported.

Mr. Richard Gable, chairman of the visitation committee for the meetings, writes that "one of the outstanding conversions was a man who was 69 and his wife 56. They drank so much that several years ago the state took their children away and put them in foster homes. After making a decision for Christ, they brought 11 people into the meetings and each one was saved. Also two of his children were saved . . ."

"The people in the church loved Ernie very much . . . It was a real joy to do visitation with him." Fifteen conversions were reported.

## The Song of the Angels

(Continued from page 1)

blest inhabitants of the upper world—I can suppose that when the intelligence was first communicated to those angels that are to be found upon the outskirts of the heavenly world, when they looked down from Heaven and saw the new-born Babe, they sent the news backward to the place whence the miracle first proceeded, singing:

Angels, from the realms of glory,  
Wing your downward flight to earth:  
Ye who sing creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

And as the message ran from rank to rank, at last the presence-angels, who perpetually watch around the throne of God, took up the strain, and, gathering up the song of all the inferior grades of angels, surmounted the divine pinnacle of harmony with their own solemn chant of adoration, upon which the entire host shouted, "The highest angels praise thee," "Glory to God in the highest." Ay, there is no mortal that can ever dream how magnificent was that song.

Then, note, if angels shouted before and when the world was made, their hallelujahs were more full, more strong, more magnificent, if not more hearty, when they saw Jesus Christ born of the Virgin Mary to be man's redeemer—"Glory to God in the highest."

Salvation Is God's Highest Glory

What is the instructive lesson



to be learned from this first syllable of the angel's song? Why

ed when Grant Nelson, Brother Habecker's song leader, preached in a prison.

Brother Habecker also has just conducted a fine revival campaign with the Christian Church of Sweet Valley, Pennsylvania. Rev. Ira Button is pastor of this church. There were 29 conversions and 32 rededications during the campaign. Evangelist Habecker writes, "A wonderful spirit prevailed in the meeting, and a good spirit of revival was evident."

Pastors wishing information and dates concerning Evangelist Habecker may write Evangelist Bill Rice in care of this paper.

**EVANGELIST JOE MILLER**, Maple Avenue, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, recently concluded revival services at the Turnpike Baptist Church, Hungerford, Pennsylvania. The pastor, Rev. Richard M. Kidd, writes that "there were seven professions of faith in Christ, one rededication, and a fine response in general by the people of the church. Our people appreciated the fervent, Spirit-filled preaching of Brother Miller . . ."

**DR. HARRY McCORMICK LINTZ**, director of the Victory Crusade Evangelistic Association, 1111 West Sunset Drive, Redlands, California, has conducted 15 "Victory Crusades" across the nation during 1956. 1001 confessions of faith throughout the year were reported! Believer's baptism, restoration, rededication, transfer of letter, life service, Bible pledge, new tithers and establishment of family altar accounted for an additional 8,918 decisions for Christ.

Our hearts are thrilled as we hear of God's blessing on Dr. Lintz' ministry.

this: that salvation is God's highest glory. He is glorified in every dew drop that twinkles to the morning sun. He is magnified in every wood flower that blossoms in the copse, although it live to blush unseen, and waste its sweetness on the forest air. God is glorified in every bird that warbles on the spray; in every lamb that skips the mead.

Do not the fishes in the sea praise Him? From the tiny minnow to the huge leviathan, do not all creatures that swim the water bless and praise His name? Do not all created things extol Him? Is there aught beneath the sky, save man, that doth not glorify God?

(Continued on page 5)

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# The Song of the Angels

(Continued from page 4)

Do not the stars exalt Him when they write His name upon the azure of Heaven in their golden letters? The psalmist says: "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge."

Do not lightnings adore Him when they flash His brightness in arrows of light piercing the midnight darkness? Do not thunders extol Him when they roll like drums in the march of the God of armies? Do not all things exalt Him, from the least even to the greatest?

But sing, sing, oh universe, till thou hast exhausted thyself, thou canst not afford a song so sweet as the song of Incarnation! Though creation may be a majestic organ of praise, it cannot reach the compass of the golden canticle—Incarnation! There is more in that than in creation, more melody in Jesus in the manger than there is in worlds on worlds rolling their grandeur round the throne of the Most High.

Pause, Christian, and consider this a minute. See how every attribute is here magnified. Lo! what wisdom is here. God becomes man that God may be just and the justifier of the ungodly. Lo! what power, for where is power so great as when it concealeth power? What power, that Godhead should unrobe itself and become man! Behold, what love is thus revealed to us when Jesus becomes a man. Behold, what faithfulness! How many promises are this day kept? How many solemn obligations are this hour discharged? What grace, and yet what justice! For it was in the person of that newborn child that the law must be fulfilled, and in His precious body must vengeance find recompense for injuries done to divine righteousness.

All the attributes of God were in that little child most marvelously displayed and veiled. Tell me one attribute of God that is not manifest in Jesus, and your ignorance shall be the reason why you have not seen it so. The whole of God is glorified in Christ; and though some part of the name of God is written in the universe, it is here best read—in Him who was the Son of Man, and yet the Son of God.

Conceive the whole sun to be focussed to a single point, and yet so softly revealed as to be endurable by the tenderest eye. Even thus the glorious God is brought down for man to see Him born of a woman. Think of it. The express image of God in mortal flesh! The heir of all things cradled in a manger! Marvelous is this! Glory to God in the Highest! He has never revealed Himself before as He now manifests Himself in Jesus.

But let me say one word more. We must learn from this, that if salvation glorifies God, glorifies Him in the highest degree, and makes the highest creatures praise Him, this one reflection may be added—then that doctrine which glorifies man in salvation cannot be the Gospel. For salvation glorifies God.

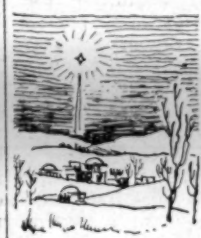
The angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest." They believe in no doctrine which uncrowns Christ and puts the crown upon the head of mortals. They believe in no system of faith which makes salvation dependent upon the creature, and which really gives the creature the praise; for what is it less for a man to save himself, if the whole dependence of salvation rests upon his own free will? No, my brethren; there may be some preachers who delight to preach a doctrine that magnifies man; but in their Gospel angels have no delight. The only glad tidings that made the angels sing are those that put God first, God last, God midst, and God without end, in the salvation of His creatures, and put the crown wholly and alone upon the head of Him that saves without a helper. "Glory to God in the highest," is the angels' song.

## Peace on Earth

When they had sung this, they sang what they had never sung

before. "Glory to God in the highest" was an old, old song. They had sung that from before the foundations of the world. But now, they sang as it were a new song before the throne of God: for they added this stanza—"on earth, peace." They did not sing that in the Garden of Eden. There was peace there, but it seemed a thing of course, and scarce worth singing of. There was more than peace there; for there was glory to God there.

But, now, man had fallen, and since the day when cherubim with fiery swords drove out the man, there had been no peace on earth, save in the breasts of some believers who had obtained peace from the living fountain of this incarnation of Christ. Wars had raged from the ends of the world. Men had slaughtered one another, heaps on heaps. There had been wars within as well as wars without. Conscience had fought with man; Satan had tormented man with thoughts of sin. There had been no peace on earth since Adam fell.



But, now, when the newborn King made His appearance, the swaddling band with which He was wrapped up was the white flag of peace. That manger was the place where the treaty was signed, whereby warfare should be stopped between man's conscience and himself, man's conscience and his God. It was then, that day, the trumpet blew—"Sheathe the sword, oh man, sheathe the sword, oh conscience, for God is now at peace with man, and man at peace with God."

Do you not feel, my brethren, that the Gospel of God is peace to man? Where else can peace be found but in the message of Jesus? Go, legalist, work for peace with toil and pain, and thou shalt never find it. Go, thou that trustest in the law: go thou to Sinai; look to the flames that Moses saw, and shrink and tremble, and despair; for peace is nowhere to be found but in Him of whom it is said: "This man shall be peace."

And what a peace it is, beloved! It is peace like a river, and righteousness like the waves of the sea. It is the peace of God that passeth all understanding, which keeps our hearts and minds through Jesus Christ our Lord. This sacred peace between the pardoned soul and God the pardoner; this marvelous at-onement between the sinner and his judge, this was it that the angels sang when they said, "Peace on earth."

It is through our Lord Jesus being born that there is already a measure of peace on earth and boundless peace yet to come. The day cometh when nations shall learn war no more. The Prince of Peace shall snap the spear of war across His knee. He, the Lord of all, shall break the arrows of the bow, the sword and the shield and the battle, and He shall do it in His own dwelling-place, even in Zion, which is more glorious and excellent than all the mountains of prey. As surely as Christ was born at Bethlehem He will yet make all men brothers, and establish a universal monarchy of peace, of which there shall be no end. So let us sing if we value the glory of God, for the new-born child reveals it; and let us sing if we value peace on earth, for He is come to bring it.

Let us labor if we can to make peace. Now, old gentleman, you won't take your son in: he has offended you. Fetch him in. "Peace on earth," you know. Make peace in your family.

Now, brother, you have made a vow that you will never speak to your brother again. Go after him and say, "Oh, my dear fellow, let not this day's sun go down upon our wrath." Fetch him in, and give him your hand.

Now, Mr. Tradesman, you have an opponent in trade, and you have said some very hard words about him lately. Make the matter up to-day, or to-morrow, or as soon as you can.

And, oh! if thou has anything on thy conscience, anything that prevents thy having peace of mind, pray to God to give thee peace; for it is peace on earth, mind; peace in thyself, peace with thyself, peace with thy fellowmen, peace with thy God. And do not rest till thou canst say, "O God,

"With the world, myself, and Thee I, ere I sleep, at peace will be."

## Good Will Toward Men

And, then, the angels wisely ended their song with a third note. They said: "Good will toward men."

Philosophers have said that God has a good will toward man; but I never knew any man who derived much comfort from their philosophical assertion. Wise men have thought from what we have seen in creation that God had much good will toward man, or else His works would never have been so constructed for their comfort; but I never heard of any man who could risk his soul's peace upon such a faint hope as that.

But I have not only heard of thousands, but I know them, who are quite sure that God has a good will toward men; and if you ask their reason, they will give a full and perfect answer. They say, "He has good will toward man for He gave His Son." "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." No greater proof of kindness between the Creator and His subjects can possibly be afforded than when the Creator gives His only begotten and well-beloved Son to die.

Though the first note is God-like, and though the second note is peaceful, this third note melts my heart the most. Some think of God as if He were a morose Being who hated all mankind. Some picture Him as if He were some abstract subsistence taking no interest in our affairs. Hark ye, God has "good will toward men."

You know what good will means. Well, all that it means, and more, God has to you, ye sons and daughters of Adam. Swearer, you have cursed God. He has not fulfilled His curse on you; He has good will toward you, though you have no good will toward Him. Infidel, you have sinned high and hard against the Most High. He has said no hard things against you, for He has good will toward men.

Poor sinner, thou hast broken His laws. Thou art half afraid to come to the throne of His mercy lest He should spurn thee. Hear thou this, and be comforted—God has good will toward men, so good a will that He has said, and said it with an oath, too, "As I live, saith the Lord, I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, but had rather that he should turn unto me and live"; so good a will moreover that He has even condescended to say: "Come now, and let us reason together; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

And if you ask: "Lord, how shall I know that Thou hast this good will toward me?" He points to yonder manger, and says: "Sinner, if I had not a good will toward thee, would I have parted with my Son? If I had not good will toward the human race, would I have given up my Son to become one of that race that He might by so doing redeem them from death?"

Ye that doubt the Master's love, look ye to that circle of angels; see their blaze of glory; hear their song, and let your doubts die away in that sweet music and be buried in a shroud of harmony. He has good will to men; He is willing to pardon; He passes by iniquity, transgression, and sin. And, mark thee, if Satan shall then add, "But though God hath good will, yet He cannot violate His justice. Therefore His mercy may be ineffective, and you may die"; then listen to that first note of the song, "Glory to God in the highest," and reply to Satan and all his temptations, that when God shows good will to a penitent sinner, there is not only peace in the sinner's heart, but it brings glory to every attribute of God, and so

He can be just, and yet justify the sinner, and glorify Himself.

## Prophetic

There are some prophetic utterances contained in these words.

The angels sang "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will toward men." But I look around, and what see I in the wide, wide world? I do not see God honored. I see the heathen bowing down before their idols. I look about me, and I see tyranny lording it over the bodies and souls of men. I see God forgotten. I see a worldly race pursuing mammon; I see a bloody race pursuing Moloch; I see ambition riding like Nimrod over the land, God forgotten, His name dishonored. And was this all the angels sang about? Is this all that made them sing "Glory to God in the highest"? Ah! no. There are brighter days approaching.

They sang, "Peace on earth." But I hear still the clarion of war, and the cannon's horrid roar. Not yet have they turned the sword into plowshare, and the spear into pruning-hook! War still reigns. Is this all that the angels sang about? And whilst I see wars to the ends of the earth, am I to believe that this was all the angels expected? Ah! No, brethren; the angels' song is big with prophecy; it travaileth in birth with glories.

A few more years, and he who lives them out shall see why angels sang. A few more years, and He who will come shall come, and will not tarry. Christ the Lord will come again, and when He cometh He shall cast the idols from their thrones. He shall dash down every fashion of heresy and every shape of idolatry. He shall reign from pole to pole with ilimitable sway. He shall reign,

when, like a scroll, yon blue heavens have passed away.

No strife shall vex Messiah's reign, no blood shall then be shed. They'll hang the useless helmet high, and study war no more. The hour is approaching when the temple of Janus shall be shut for ever, and when cruel Mars shall be hooted from the earth. The day is coming when the lion shall eat straw like the ox; when the leopard shall lie down with the kid; when the weaned child shall put his hand upon the cockatrice' den and play with the asp. The hour approacheth. The first streaks of the sunlight have made glad the age in which we live. Lo, He comes, with trumpets and with clouds of glory! He shall come for whom we look with joyous expectation, whose coming shall be glory to His redeemed, and confusion to His enemies. Ah! brethren, when the angels sang this there was an echo through the long aisles of a glorious future. The echo was—

"Hallelujah! Christ the Lord God Omnipotent shall reign."

—THE END—

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## Grace Notes

(Continued from page 2)

mas. After a few weeks of thinking about "Peace on earth, good will to men," Mr. World reads in the newspaper that there is no peace. After reading the sweet story in Luke, he reads a scientific report that "proves" a part of the Bible, supposedly, can't be true. After singing lustily, "Joy to the world," he finds his own life beset by grief. Not knowing he can turn to Christ for his peace, joy, and eternal salvation, and in the midst of doubts and distractions, fears and frustrations, disappointments and doom, he finds he has nothing to cling to, nothing to be certain of.

Then he begins to feel, as Longfellow's poem says,

*And in despair I bowed my head:  
"There is no peace on earth," I said,  
"For hate is strong and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men."*

And without a ringing, positive, personal knowledge of the same One whose coming to earth we celebrate at Christmas, even Longfellow's "The world revolved from night to day," is only a dream. If only we could get people to see that the real message of Christmas is a year-round, life-long message of joy and peace, through Christ!

Christmas isn't just a few weeks set aside to think about the fact that Christ came to earth as a child; He also lived, and loved the multitudes and healed the sick, and comforted; He was crucified and He rose again to bring us salvation. So Christmas isn't just a birth-song to us; it is a year-round anthem in which the first verse is His birth according to promise; the second is His sacrificial death on the cross for the atonement of our sins; the third is His resurrection from death in the power of His deity; and the fourth is the promised Home He has prepared for us to share with Him for all eternity!

Christmas is candles and trees and cards and gifts, surely—but it is so much more than that! Let no Christian home have Christmas without the reading of the sweet words of the Gospel . . . without vows for the new year . . . without songs in the heart and on the lips . . . without a new determination to help others know what Christmas can really be like!

For some time I've talked about the importance of memorizing hymns. When I found the following clipping, it seemed just right to pass on to you. I think you'll enjoy it. I wish I knew who wrote it, but I think you'll find it helpful and I hope will remember it.

### "A Song in My Heart"

"As you sing so joyously and regularly the great God-given hymns of faith, do you ever stop to think that you are filling your soul's reservoir with resources for future strength and power?"

"Or, has it perhaps worked the other way, and suddenly in some hour of need the refrain of a song, carried unconsciously in the memory for years, has come to you with new meaning and significance?"

"Long ago God commanded Moses, ' . . . write ye this song for you, and teach it the children of Israel: put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for me' (Deut. 31:19). He promised ' . . . when many evils and troubles are befallen them, that this song shall testify . . . for it shall not be forgotten out of the mouths of their seed' (Deut. 31:21).

"But the inspiration did not stop when Moses had written his wonderful song of praise (Deut. 32) nor when David had composed the last of his glorious Psalms. God continues to command his composers to 'write this song as a witness to me.'

"When we gather about our pianos and teach our children hymns of praise, when along the road or about our work we hum or whistle songs of comfort and strength, when we attend faithfully the services of our church and join in

## Glad Christmas Tidings

(Continued from page 1)

thou hast found favour with God" (Luke 1:30). When the angel of the Lord appeared unto Joseph in a dream to encourage him to take Mary to his house, he said, "Joseph, thou son of David, fear not" (Matt. 1:20). Oh, we need not be afraid! We are failures, we are sinners, we are strangers from God, we are fallen and ruined and tainted—but God loves us, God wishes us well, God has given His Son for us! Oh, at this Christmas season, I beg you do not be afraid, but be happy! God has good news for us.

How strange that the angels appeared to so many about the time of the Saviour's birth. They appeared to Zacharias, to Mary, to Joseph three times, to the shepherds in the fields; the angel may have appeared to the wise men from the East, for "being warned of God in a dream," they returned another way. When the message to the shepherds was done, "there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host." It seemed that the angels were so eager to appear to men, that they could hardly refrain from shouting the chorus, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men"! The news was so good that even Heaven could not contain it. The tidings were such glad tidings that angels were beside themselves with the joy of telling it! It is happy news we have.

We poor, conceited, self-satisfied, wise-in-our-own-sight mortals know entirely too much these days to believe in angels. We never see them, never hear them, though the Scripture says that they are all about us, loving servants and ministers of us who will be the heirs of salvation (Heb. 1:14). They are our guardians, our messengers. But we choose to walk by physical sight instead of spiritual sight. We take seriously only the things that are seen, not the unseen, and only the things that are temporary instead of the eternal. It would be blessed beyond expression this Christmastime if Christians would open their hearts, not so much to the things understood by the head, as to the joyful message of the angels received in the heart. There are about us loving angels of God who would gladly make us happy in our heart if they could. The angels of God brought glad, glad tidings for all the world.

If there should come the glad news today that the struggles in Europe, Asia, and Africa were settled, were settled amicably and righteously, it would be blessed news, but not a thousandth part as good as the news we have here.

If all the hungry had bread, if all the naked had clothes, if all the sick were made well, if all the unemployed were given jobs, that would not be a fraction as great as the news spoken by the angels that a Saviour, Christ the Lord, was born in Bethlehem of Judaea.

If every home had a Christmas basket, if every stocking were filled with goodies, if every mother had her children at home for Christmas, that would not be good news like the tidings brought by the angels.

How silly we are to turn at Christmastime to legends and fairy tales. In churches of Jesus Christ there are foolish and sinning preachers and Sunday School

the singing there we are planting songs that may return in the night."

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teachers and children's workers who tell stories of Santa Claus, reindeers, or airplanes when they could tell of a Baby born in a manger, of the angels' praises saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men;" of the wise men from the East who brought their gifts of gold, and frankincense, and myrrh, seeing again the star which stopped over the manger in Bethlehem, as it had appeared to them in the East.

It is not only that Christian workers tell a lie when they could tell the truth and teach paganism when they could teach Christianity. It seems worse that they miss the opportunity to teach the only thing that can ever bring peace and permanent joy to this world. Beloved, at Christmastime tell children not the lies of Satan, not the fairy tales of paganism, but tell them the good news which the angels told to the shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem, that "unto you is born this day . . . a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Some Christians have a tendency to criticize civic organizations and commercial firms for using Christmas carols, Christmas pictures, and Scriptures at the holiday season. I do not criticize them for this, rather I rejoice with all my heart. I wish that Christmas were not so much commercialized, and I regret that many who sing "Silent Night, Holy Night," and "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," and Philip Brooks' matchless hymn, "O Little Town of Bethlehem," do not, I fear, know Jesus Christ personally. But I am glad for the Saviour to have their homage. All those who do not personally know the Saviour were yet made by Him and kept by Him and surrounded by His boundless mercy and providence and care. David well said, "Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6).

I saw on billboards the other day a beautiful colored scene of the baby Jesus in the manger, and, I think, the wise men from the East. My heart glowed and burned as I saw it. I praise God that the Gospel was so preached.

From the giant dome of a skyscraper in Des Moines, Iowa, once I heard loud speakers ringing out so that for many, many blocks people could hear:

*Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright,  
'Round yon virgin, mother and Child,  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in Heavenly peace!  
Sleep in Heavenly peace!*

And I thought as I walked the snowy sidewalk and knew that the milling multitudes heard the testimony about Jesus, that if preachers cannot reach crowds with the story that a Saviour is born, then praise God that radios and singing clubs and civic organizations give witness that our Saviour was born!

Multiplied thousands of Christmas cards will be sent this year by people who are not Christians, and on these cards will be many a verse of Scripture, many a scene picturing the baby Jesus, or the angels speaking to the shepherds, or the heavenly host shouting, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." I thank God for that. I thank God that calendars remind people that the Saviour was born. I thank God for the very gladness that is in the air. These are "tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." Let every person, then, who lives, be encouraged to rejoice in the Christmas season. But let our joy be in the Saviour, and not in presents, not in seeing our loved ones, not in a big time, not in hung-up stockings, nor greetings. The world never heard better news than that a Saviour was born. No wonder that there was a multitude of the heavenly host that joined in the praises that wintry night in the fields of Judaea where shepherds kept their flocks!

### II. Tidings for All People

The message of the angels was for everybody. Christmas joy and the Christmas message is not for

any clique, any clan, any strata of society, any color, any race, any nation. It is for everybody. The angel said, "Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

Let us rejoice then for every Christmas card sent even by unsaved people, for every stress of the Christmas theme, even by unconverted Jews. I do not mean that any can have the best blessing of Christmas without loving Christ, trusting Christ, receiving Christ as Saviour. But I mean that it would be foolish to try to limit this blessing that God meant to be world-wide, and for every creature. This good news is as wide as the great commission which is to "all the world," to "every creature," to "all nations," and "unto the end of the world" (Mark 15:16; Matt. 28:19, 20).

It seems strange that Caesar Augustus in his palace at Rome knew nothing of the birth of the Saviour; the heavenly angel passed him by. There was no sound of praises from the heavenly chorus in the marble halls at Rome. But if the announcement had been made in Caesar's palace, it would have been a message for rulers, for classes, instead of the masses. But this good news is not just for rulers, it is for all.

It seems strange that to the Sanhedrin and the religious rulers at Jerusalem the angel did not appear and give the message of the universe-shaking event that occurred that night. But this message is not just for saints; it is for the whole race of sinners. This message is not just for church people; it is for the outside throngs. Man has a tendency to fit the Gospel to special groups of religious fold. Preachers put on an unctuous tone, dress in sober garments, and often wear the collar turned backwards and the robe of the priest especially to make themselves appear properly religious. Churches tend constantly toward formalism, toward an order of service that may be beautiful and aesthetic to the initiated and the religious, to those accustomed to memorized responses, to those who know when to stand and when to sit, when to pray and when to sing. But, God forgive us, we often forget the whole secular world for which Christ died. We ought to remember that the Gospel was not meant for churches but for sinners. So the angel did not go to the priests and prophets and Pharisees, but he went to the shepherds.

There were men rich and powerful in commerce in those days. But the announcement of our Saviour's birth was not made to them personally by the angels. This is not a rich man's Gospel, for all who come to Christ must come as the poor in spirit. This message is to all people.

The "message of great joy which shall be to all people"—that reminds us of "God so loved the world." The whole world, mind you. Every person that ever walks this planet is included in the love of God; the drunkard along with the preacher, the harlot along with the saint, the slave along with his master, the pauper along with the king!

The best "break" poor people ever get in the world, they get in the Gospel. In Soviet Russia they said that "Religion is the opiate of the poor," so they set out with hammer and sickle, with blasphemy and atheism, with murder of Christians and confiscation of churches, to do away with the "enslavement" of religion. But in what state now are the poor there! Never was there such oppression, such senseless tyranny, such loss of cardinal rights and liberties of mankind in recent centuries. Christ was born in a stable and laid in a manger "because there was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7). He was wrapped in swaddling clothes, that is, coarse cloth, uncut, unsewn, unadorned. Christ was born poor. When His mother went to the temple to offer a sacrifice according to the law, she took not the lamb that was customary, but "a pair of turtledoves," which was permitted to the very poor.

At birth Christ lay in a manger. In life He had nowhere to lay His head. He died stripped of His garments and was buried in a borrowed grave!

How fitting, then, that the glad Christmas message should come to shepherds, the poor, the common, the undistinguished.

To the vilest sinner that ever lived is offered the glad news that the Gospel is for him. To the poorest wretch that ever slept on straw in a hovel, or dressed in rags, or held a beggar's cup, or received crumbs at a rich man's gate, the glad tidings are offered that the Saviour is for him. Nobody is left out.

How well it is said that "he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for our's only, but also for the sins of the whole world" (I John 2:2). No wonder it is offered, "whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" (Rev. 22:17). This good news is for all people.

### III. Tidings of a Saviour

These glad tidings to all people are tidings of a Saviour. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David A SAVIOUR." That is what makes them good tidings.

The world is not suffering for lack of a ruler, an educator, a general, a doctor, a poet, a scientist—the world needs a Saviour.

Wise men call Jesus "the great teacher," and it is true, "Never man spake like this man" (John 7:46), but that is not the good news. Jesus rebuked the young man who came to Him saying, "Good master" (or rabbi, professor), and said to him sharply, "Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God" (Matt. 19:16, 17). If Jesus is only a rabbi or teacher, then He is not good, but is the greatest cheat, the greatest disappointment this world ever saw. He is more than that: He is God incarnate.

He was not announced by the angels as a good teacher, but as a Saviour.

There are those who try to live "the Jesus way" without accepting Jesus as Saviour, but in that way lies frustration, failure, and eternal ruin.

A young college senior said to a famous preacher, "I am willing to take Jesus as my great example, and follow in His steps. I do not think He is the Saviour, but the greatest teacher that ever lived. I will gladly take Him as my example."

The preacher then said, "Well, let us begin then where Christ began. It was said of Him, 'who did no sin' (I Pet. 2:22). Can you follow that example?"

The young man turned pale and stammered, "No, I cannot say that I have never sinned."

"Then what you need," said the minister, "is not an example but a Saviour!"

Good examples do no good to dead men, and sinners are dead in trespasses and in sin. The good examples of the fine athletes can do no good to the helpless, hopeless cripple, the incurably diseased; and the whole world is sick with a curse and blight of sin that only Christ can heal. The world needs a Saviour! And the good news is that Jesus Christ came to be the Saviour of all who will trust Him.

That means that while we rejoice over the birth of the Baby Jesus, our blessings do not come primarily from His birth, but from His death. No one will ever rejoice properly, and from the heart, at Christmastime who does not know that the same Child who was born of a virgin died a criminal's death on the cross. "Christ died for our sins, according to the scriptures" (I Cor. 15:3). Jesus was born to die. Jesus lived but to die. "Without shedding of blood is no remission" (Heb. 9:22). Let no modernist deceive you, before the Saviour left Heaven He knew He was to die, and before He was born of the virgin's womb, it was determined in the councils of Heaven that He should live a holy life but should die a shameful death, paying for man's sins and becoming man's Saviour.

And strange as it may seem, this is all that the world holds against Jesus: that He claims to be, and is, a Saviour and Lord.

To the world it does not so much matter that He would claim to be the Son of God. The modernist glibly asserts that we are all the children of God. Every lodge, and nearly every religion speaks of "the universal Fatherhood of God." An unbelieving Fosdick can

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## Glad Christmas Tidings

(Continued from page 6)

say in his 'sermon' on "The Peril of Worshipping Jesus" that Christ was divine just as his mother was divine. But the world is not willing to admit that it needs a Saviour. Men do not want to confess that they are undone sinners and that Christ was the only sinless one. That is why scoffers deny the virgin birth, deny His bodily resurrection, deny His pre-existent glory. Wicked men, unrepentant men, proud, haughty, self-righteous men, do not want a Saviour.

Men would be willing to have a helper. Millions are willing to pray who are not willing to trust. Millions use the name of Christ in forms and ceremonies who do not cast themselves upon Him wholly as a Saviour. How strange that people would prefer Mary, or the priests, or the saints, to the Son of God! And the reason is that men do not like to confess that they are sinners, do not like to trust to another better than they, pure, holy, sinless, who died the innocent for the guilty, and the pure for the wicked.

You who think of the fair little one in the manger should remember that He is not simply a darling baby to be coddled. This is the Son of God come to SAVE men! Mary, after the conception of the Saviour, praised God and said, "My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my SAVIOUR" (Luke 1:46, 47). And she meant the God who would become flesh, this Saviour who is Christ the Lord of which she was to be the mother.

They miss all the blessing of Christmas who make Jesus Christ anything less than Saviour. He was not a martyr dying as a victim of His age, or dying for a principle. Jesus was not a victim of circumstances. He plainly said, "I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father" (John 10:17, 18). Let us remember that Jesus is not primarily a prophet or teacher or priest or king; primarily He is a Saviour, the only Saviour. It is true He is the prophet promised by Moses (Deut. 18:15). He is the "Apostle and High Priest of our profession" (Heb. 3:1). He is a master, teacher, leader, "one is your Master, even Christ" (Matt. 23:8-10). He is our example, for "Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps" (I Pet. 2:21), and "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5), and "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matt. 4:19). But no man has any need of Jesus as anything else until first of all he knows Him as the only Saviour, his own personal Saviour and Lord, the Christ of God.

Dear reader, you who sing songs and carols, you who give gifts and send greetings, you who gather around the festive board, remember you have missed all of Christmas that is worthwhile if you do not know Jesus Christ as your own Saviour. The joyful tidings which shall be for all people is that the Saviour has come.

### IV. Tidings of the Prophesied Christ, the Messiah, the Lord of the Old Testament

The angel said to the shepherds, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, WHICH IS CHRIST THE LORD."

Jesus is the human name of our Saviour, and it means Saviour or Deliverer. Jesus is the name by which Mary called Him from play. Joseph, His foster father, instructed the young lad in the carpenter's shop by this human name, Jesus. Doubtless he said, "Jesus, hand me the plane." His unconverted brothers called Him Jesus. And when He died, His accusation called him "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus is the name that the Son of God adopted when He came into the world to live among men.

But the angel explained to the shepherds that this Saviour (Jesus), "is Christ the Lord." The word Christ is a Greek word meaning the anointed, just as Messiah is the Hebrew word for the anointed. The angel meant to say

that this is the Christ (anointed) of Psalm 2:2 (quoted Christ in Acts 4:26). This is the Son in the same second Psalm, verse 12. This is the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 52:13-15 and Isaiah 53. This is the forsaken one of Psalm 22. This is the Prophet foretold by Moses (Deut. 18:15). This is the Seed of the woman that should bruise the serpent's head (Gen. 3:15). This is the "Messiah the prince" of Daniel 9:25. This is the Governor, born at Bethlehem, that shall rule God's people (Mic. 5:2). This is the promised Seed of Abraham (Gen. 13:15; Gen. 17:7, 8; Gal. 3:16). This is the stem from the root of Jesse (Isa. 11:1), the promised Seed of David whose kingdom shall never end (II Sam. 7:10-16). This is the Child born, the Son given, upon whose shoulders shall be the government, "and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isa. 9:6).

Yes, this is that child, that Son, the Son that a virgin should conceive and call His name Immanuel (Isa. 7:14). That is what the angel meant when he said to the shepherds, "And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." They would see with their own eyes that God had come in the form of a baby, from the womb of a virgin. The Scripture was fulfilled, in that it was in Bethlehem, and of the tribe of Judah, and of the house of David, and in a virgin birth.

All true joy is joy based upon solid facts. Jesus was the Saviour because He is Christ the Lord. The word Lord here is used throughout the Scriptures referring to God Almighty the Creator. The angel's word can have but one meaning, and that is that the baby boy is God manifest in the flesh. He is the Word who was in the beginning with God (John 1:1). By Him, God made the worlds (Heb. 1:2; Col. 1:16). He is, Isaiah said, "The mighty God, The everlasting Father." Later, Jesus Himself would say, "I and my Father are one" (John 10:30).

This is what Peter meant when Jesus asked Him, "Whom say ye that I am?" And Peter replied, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt. 16:15, 16). That baby Jesus in the manger at Bethlehem is the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies. He is God's own pre-existent Son come in the flesh.

Notice that the angel said, "A Saviour which is Christ THE Lord." He is a Saviour but really the only Saviour since He is the prophesied Christ, Messiah, of the Old Testament, God's own Son. No one else can ever be like Him. No one else can ever do the work He can do. Christ stands pre-eminent and alone. He was born as never another was born, lived as never another lived, spake as never a man spake, died as no one else could ever die, and now it is the will of God that everything in Heaven and earth should bow the knee to Him and that in all things He might have the pre-eminence.

This Christmastime let us never forget that Jesus was not simply a baby, but the only baby of His kind. He is the only baby that inherited not a taint of sin. Jesus is the Christ, the Lamb of God, the Saviour of the world.

### V. Tidings of a Baby!

We have just said that the Saviour born that first Christmas season (whatever the day or month), was the pre-existent Son, the Christ of God and thus the only Saviour. But let us never forget that Christ was also human.

The angel said to the shepherds, "Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

How glad I am that the gospel story does not begin with the ministry of Christ or with His death. The story of Christ in the flesh begins, with Him as with every other human being, at His conception by a human mother. And from that moment until the day He died, Jesus was humanity. He was God, yes, but He was also

Man. We are told to have the mind that was in Christ Jesus.

*"Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."*—Phil. 2:6-8.

Here is a God willingly becoming man. Here is the Divine, purposely becoming human. Here is the mighty Creator, making Himself a creature under the curse and frailty and temptations and limitations of a human body.

Hebrews 4:15, 16, tells us:

*"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."*

Man could not see God until Jesus was born. No man could ever explain the compassion of God until Jesus, the human Christ, looked upon sinners and had compassion upon them, loved them, wept over them, healed, forgave, died for them. Oh, how blessed it is that Jesus has been through every temptation, every trial that any human being ever suffered. He was tempted in all points like as we are and yet without sin. To such an High Priest I can go boldly. He knows the feeling of our infirmities. He remembers that we are dust. The serpent's tooth of temptation never does strike any poor man or woman in the world that it did not first strike Jesus Christ.

Let us consider the baby Jesus. We may well pity every baby ever born in this world. Each little one seems fresh from the hand of God. So pure and untainted by sin, they seem at first, that they might have been cuddled by angels and might have smiled into the face of God in Heaven! But a baby begins to die as soon as it is born. The first thing every little one does is to cry! The little one has to get adjusted to a life full of disease germs, full of accidents, hardships, temptations, sins and death. The little one, at first immune to many diseases, soon becomes susceptible to infection and is started on the road that will end either in pre-mature death or in lined face, gray hair, stooped shoulders, brittle bones, a slowing down of life processes, enfeeblement of mind and body and at last the grave!

But the dear Saviour ran all the gamut of human emotions, human trials, human sufferings and human temptations. From the first irritation of the straw on His tender skin or the first pricking of a diaper pin until the thorns were pressed into His brow and the nails driven through His hands and feet, our blessed Saviour took in His own body, yea, in His own soul, all the wounds and griefs and sicknesses and sorrows with which Satan ever afflicted the human race.

Our Saviour entered this world through the same portals used by every human being since Eve—the body of a human mother. He was nursed at a mother's breast, cuddled in a mother's arms. He was sung to sleep, no doubt, by a mother's lullaby, taught His first lisping words by "mamma" and took His first tottering steps to mother's outstretched arms.

Jesus knows the pathway of mankind from cradle to the grave, the bumps of childhood, the strange thrills and stirrings and gropings of adolescence, the hot passions of youth, the burdens of maturity. These all attacked Jesus the same as they have attacked every other baby boy who grew to manhood. Jesus never sinned. He never fell before Satan's onslaught. He never wavered before temptation, but "He was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin."

I do not know how Jesus could be tempted but the Scripture says He was. We may reverently believe, from the Scriptures, that Jesus resisted the same biological urges that press every young man. We must take it for granted since the Scripture says He was tempted in all points, that Satan often whispered to Him that He should

## Judgment

(Continued from page 1)

more often the world thinks we are good when we are bad.

Now, look into your own heart just for a minute and ask yourself this question: If everybody knew me just like God knows me, would I stand as well as I stand?

I remember years ago an evangelistic campaign near my boyhood home in southeast Alabama. We were having a great revival in a big open tabernacle. One night after I had gone to bed, there was a little knock at the door. I got out of bed, went to the door, and a fellow said, "I would like to talk to you about my soul." (I've never been too tired to answer that call.)

So I said, "Come on in," and he came on in, and I recognized him—an usher in the meeting, a Sunday School officer, supposedly the cleanest, finest young man in town.

He began like this, "Everybody thinks I'm good. My wife thinks it, and my mother thinks it, and the man I work for thinks it. Everybody thinks I'm good. But I'm a thief. I have stolen money from three sources in this town—from the firm I am working for now, and from two other firms I used to work for. Everybody thinks I'm honest. But tonight as I listened to you speak, I said, 'I can't meet my record when I stand in the presence of God. He knows I'm a thief.'" He said, "What must I do about it?"

"Well," I said, "do right about it. There is but one thing to do about anything and that is the right thing. Why ask what to do when you know what is right?"

taste the pleasures of sin. Jesus conquered every temptation that ever beset men, whether the lure of lust or the taste of wine or the desire for power or the deceitfulness of riches or the self-exaltation of fame.

Let never a sinner feel that He is beyond redemption for Christ Jesus has blunted every arrow of Satan, has been exposed to every device of the wicked one.

Are you poor, dear reader? Jesus was poorer. Do you know the pangs of hunger? He went for forty days and forty nights without food and then met Satan in His major temptations. Have friends forsaken you? Then remember that Jesus was betrayed by Judas, His companion and friend, for thirty pieces of silver and denied by Peter. Do people scorn your best efforts to do right and to help them? Then remember that they mocked Jesus while He died and gave Him vinegar and gall when He was thirsty and dared Him to come down from the cross when only His death could open the door of salvation to them and sinners of all the races.

I am glad the Saviour, born in Bethlehem, was once a baby. I am glad He was once a boy. I am glad He was once a man!

The Saviour was so human that shepherds could pull back the swaddling clothes to see the baby's face in the straw. The Saviour was so human that He could take little children in His arms and bless them and they, we are sure, were not afraid. The Saviour had tears like other men. He hungered and thirsted as other men. He was tired, He rejoiced, He slept, He bled, He died! Thank God for a human Saviour who was Son of man as well as Son of God.

### Conclusion

Loving friends will give you many Christmas presents this year, and I am glad they will. Love must give and men are never more like God than when they give. Our human love is selfish love and our gifts are given with mixed motives and yet let us, the best we can, give. But I beg you in Jesus' name, do not let your Christmas joy depend on other presents. The radio, the ring, the car, the new furniture or furs or watch or refrigerator or toaster or candy or ties or socks or slippers or robe—these gifts are incidental. They cannot bring more than temporary and limited joy. But the best gift anybody ever gave is that God gave His Son. Christ is the best Christmas present. This Christmas season, I beg

He said, "What do you mean?" I asked, "Have you got the money?"

"Yes, I have it. I have enough to pay it back."

I said, "Go wake them up tonight and give them a check. Tell them what you did. Come clean with God."

He said, "I'll do it."

Next morning I met one of the businessmen and he said, "You know, I never was so surprised in my life. I thought he was the best man I ever knew. I'd have trusted him with everything I had, but he was a thief."

Say, I've been preaching a long time and I find as I go up and down the country that there is a big difference between what men are and what people think they are. Sometimes there is a big difference between what a man is and what his wife thinks he is. There may be some man listening to me now—if your wife knew you just like God knows you, her heart would break. Say, don't you think that the heart of Jesus is as tender and sensitive as the heart of your wife? He never did look at sin with the least degree of allowance. And, there may be some woman here—if your husband knew you just like God knows you, your home might break up. There might be sorrow in the home. What a tragedy it would be!

I remember one time in an evangelistic meeting, night after night a woman came to the front and she would get down on her

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you, to take God's only Son as your Saviour, and enter into the tidings of joy as announced by the angel, for all people. Are you glad that God loves you? Are you conscious that He gives and gives and gives? Do you believe that Christ died for you? Then I beg you this Christmas season, open your heart, repent of your sins, trust Jesus Christ to come in and forgive and save you.

If you will trust the Saviour today, how glad I would be to hear from you. You might write me something similar to the following letter:

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Evangelist John R. Rice  
214 West Wesley Street  
Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Brother Rice:

In the solemn joy of the Christmas season I thank God for His great gift of a Saviour, Christ the Lord. I acknowledge myself a sinner and I open my heart today to receive Jesus. I trust Him to be my Saviour, to forgive my sins, to give me everlasting life and a home in Heaven. I claim Him as my great Christmas gift today and forever, and I mean this as a sincere profession of my faith in Him as the Saviour of my soul, the Forgiver of my sins and my Lord. By His help I will confess Him openly and set out to live for Him.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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## Judgment

(Continued from page 7)

knees and she wouldn't talk to anybody. I had tried to talk to her but she wouldn't say a word. Other workers would try to speak to her and ask her to accept Christ, but she wouldn't say anything. So the last night of the meeting came, and she came up to the front, got down on her knees, and I said, "Now listen, woman, you have been coming up here for prayer every night for a week or longer. You have got to settle this thing." "Oh," she said, "I can't settle it. You don't know me. Everybody thinks I'm a good woman, but I'm a murderess and an adulteress in the sight of God."

What are you tonight? What are you as you sit and listen now? What are you in the sight of a holy God? Well, you may fool people down here, but you can't pop a sham life off on God Almighty. You know, when the light of God's judgment breaks in on this earth, you are going to be surprised, some of you. Somebody you thought was just wonderful will be very crooked. And somebody you thought was so decent will be so unclean. You are going to have to answer to God some day—you can't escape it.

One time years ago I was in my room trying to rest in the afternoon when we were in the midst of a great revival. Mrs. Jones was sitting over by the window reading. Somebody knocked at the door. She answered that knock and said, "Dr. Jones is asleep."

I said, "No, I'm not asleep. What is it?"

She said, "A gentleman would like to speak to you."

I said, "Tell him to come in," and he came in. I looked at him. He was a very plain, ordinary looking sort of a fellow, but he looked as if he were in great trouble.

He said, "I want to talk to you."

I said, "Privately?"

He answered, "Yes, sir."

"Well," I said, "Mrs. Jones will go out and sit there in the hall; she doesn't mind. Sit down here by my bed."

He said, "I'm the worst man you ever saw. I've done everything that is bad. You know, my wife went off with another man and left me at home with three children. My oldest child was a very sweet girl about twelve years old. The second girl was a little blind, idiotic child about ten, and there's a sweet little baby boy. I did have a hard time. I'm not trying to justify myself, but I had a hard time trying to get along. I would hire somebody to take care of the children, and I just did the best I could." Then he said, "The little blind girl was so helpless. Oh, she just worshipped me. Anything I would say to her, she would do. When I would come home, she could hear my footsteps as I came up into the house, and she knew my footsteps. She would smile that little idiotic smile, and reach out her little helpless hands to me. She was a lot of trouble, though."

"I don't know why I did it, but one day I decided to kill her. So I went to the drugstore, bought some strychnine. You know, she would do anything I told her to do, so I came home and said, 'Baby, Daddy brought you some candy.' She reached her little hand out and took the candy, and it was cyanide of potassium, and she died. Nobody ever thought anything about it, just a little blind idiot girl; nobody ever thought I would kill her like that, you know, but I killed her! But I'm crazy! That's eight years ago, but when I go out in the dark I can see the little bony hand reaching out for the candy. I can see the stare in those blind eyes. I'd kill myself, but I'm afraid to. It's awful! It's terrible! Nobody knows it, except you and me and God. Do you think there is any hope for a fellow like me, a man that would do that?"

Oh, the sins that men commit! Of course I told him God could save him. I told him that God never looked on any sin with the least degree of allowance, but God could save him.

Say, men and women, if you had been preaching as long as I have and had been up and down this country as long as I have been traveling around, and had dealt

with as many people as I have dealt with, you would begin to understand what I'm talking about. You are going to answer to God some day. Say, what are you tonight? You folks listening—never mind about anybody else—set yourself out in front of yourself and look yourself in the eye.

There's a big difference between what many a boy is and what his mother thinks he is. There are mothers in this country whose hearts would break if they knew their boy like God knows their boy. You can fool your mother, but not God Almighty. Some of you listening to me, you girls, oh, I can't get away from that! When I was a boy you looked on all girls and said they are good girls. But you know in this day you can't always say that about girls. I may be talking to somebody tonight, some girl whose mother thinks you are an angel, but what are you in the sight of God? You are going to face Him some day. You can't get away with it. You are going to answer to God.

So, then, every one of us, every one of us, no exception, shall give an account of himself to God. You are going to stand some day in the presence of a holy God and turn your guilty eyes into His eyes. You couldn't look into your mother's eyes, some of you, if your mother knew all about you, but you will look into God's eyes some day, you won't escape that, and God Almighty knows. Some of you listening, you know you are not right, and you are going on day in and day out, bluffing. You just wait till you face God. You are accountable to God for all you are.

### Men Will Be Judged Concerning Their Thoughts

You are accountable to God for what you think. "Oh," you say, "well, I can't help that." Yes, you can. You are told in the Bible to bring every thought into captivity to the Lord Jesus. Some day you will stand before God and answer to God for even your thoughts. You know, sooner or later you are going to do what you think most about. "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." Not in his head, but in his heart. Say, you know what heart-thinking is? It is thinking when you are not trying to think. You just think without any effort.

Years ago there was a man in a certain city in America who had to go by a bank every day going to and from his business. He would walk by the bank and look in. One day it suddenly occurred to him that he could rob that bank. He said to himself, "Of course, I wouldn't do it, I'm an honest man; but I could do it." So every time he passed the bank—several times a day—he thought how easy it would be to get that money.

One day he went by there and he said, "I think I'll do it. Tonight is the time. I'll break in there tonight. I know what I can do. I can go the back way here. I know all about it. I'll do it." And he did, that night, and went to the penitentiary. He thought about stealing until he became a thief.

Say, what about your thoughts? You are going to answer some day at the judgment bar of God for what you think.

### Even for Idle Words Men Must Give Account

You are accountable to God not only for what you think but for what you say. The words that you've uttered! Words betray character. You can tell what a man is by the way he talks. "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Out of the abundance of the heart! What is inside of you will come out in your words and you will speak out and folks will hear you.

A man who tells dirty jokes has a dirty heart. A man who swears has a profane heart. Say, you men who take the name of God in vain, you had better be careful. We read in the Bible, "Thou shalt not steal," and God stopped. "Thou shalt not kill," and He stopped. "Thou shalt not covet," and He stopped there. But when He got to another commandment, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy

God in vain," He said, "Wait a minute, Moses, that is not enough. That is an important commandment. Let us chisel here in this marble these words, 'I will not hold him guiltless that takes my name in vain.'"

### Judged for Our Deeds

Thoughts, words, then deeds. We shall be judged by the deeds done in the body. All you have ever thought, all you have ever said, and all you have ever done. Some day you will stand at the judgment bar of God and answer. What a day that will be! The deeds done in the body.

Influence! Influence! I've known the most tragic things to happen. Mothers and fathers who didn't have the right influence over their children, and the children have grown up to curse them. I have known stories like that. I have witnessed things in my life. I have known men to wreck their children, and some of you are wrecking yours. Some of you wives and mothers living in this day of worldliness and sin. How many times I have had young people say to me, "Dr. Bob, I would have been all right but you don't know my dad. He was inconsistent. And my mother—you don't know her either, my inconsistent mother." You are accountable to God for your words, for your deeds, and for your thoughts.

So, then, every one of us, no exception now. Don't you think God will let you get by, and have somebody else stand up and answer. There is no bribing that court. You will answer to God for what you are. You are accountable to God for what you are—thoughts, words, deeds. Deeds done in the body. You are in the body now, in this world, but some day you will be out of the body, and you will be up yonder at the judgment bar of God. But you will have a body in eternity, too, a body that will be brought back from the dead, and even your body will stand there. You will answer to God.

You will be judged some day for your relation to His law. Now let's look at the law of God for just a minute. This law, this Book of books, this Bible. Notice these commandments I quoted to you. Read them over again. How many of you folks listening can say, "Well, I never broke one of these?" You can't say it; you have done it. Everybody listening to me some time, some where has broken the law of God. And when you broke the law of God you stood guilty before God. And you will have to answer to God some day.

Now, wait a minute. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." "The wages of sin is death." "The wicked shall be turned into hell with all the nations that forget God." We will be brought into the court of eternity, to stand there some day, soul naked in the presence of a holy God.

"Well," you say, "Bob Jones, that is an awful picture." You say, "That is too terrible." It isn't as terrible as the judgment you are headed to. It isn't as awful as the court you are going to be in some day. "Oh," but you say, "I don't like to think about that." You had better think about it. "Well," you say, "what am I going to do about it?" Well, if I were you I would do something about it. And I can tell you what to do.

### Nobody Can Face God on His Own Record

I am sure that my message up to this point would send us all to Hell. I have tried to be decent in my lifetime, and I had the reputation of being a pretty good little country boy. My mother said I was a good boy when she was dying. I was by her bed, and she looked at me and said, "Son, you have never given your mother any trouble." I was just fourteen years old, but I knew I had given God some trouble. I had sinned against God and sinned against His Son, and I knew I couldn't face God on my record. These men who think they are decent enough to stand in the presence of God, who is infinitely holy, and face Him! You can't get away with it. You say, "What am I going to do about it?" Well, you can get it fixed up. You don't have to go to judgment like that. You can come clean with God if you want to.

Years ago there lived a famous old preacher up in New England, and this preacher was dying. There gathered about his bed his wife, his friends, and some of his children. He looked at them and, as he aroused from a state of coma, he said, "It must have been a dream; it was a terrible dream. I thought it was judgment day. I was scared. There were millions and millions and millions and miles and miles and miles of people, and I stood there. And they were calling the names of the people. And I knew they were going to get to my name. I didn't know how long it would take them, but I knew they were going to get to my name. I didn't want them to call my name because I knew I had sinned against the Judge on the bench. I had sinned against God and I knew it. After awhile though, they called my name. As I walked up to the bar wondering what I could say, something wonderful happened. Jesus stood up and said, 'I'll stand for him.'"

When I heard that, I said: That's what I'll have to have. I can't stand for myself. There is nobody else who can give a good testimony for me, because nobody knows me except myself and Jesus. But, He can answer. I'll stand for Him. He said if I would stand for Him down here, He would stand for me up there. He said, "I'll make you a proposition. You confess Me and I will confess you." So I want to tell everybody listening that Jesus Christ is my Saviour. I am trusting Him. Not trusting myself, not trusting my church membership, not trusting my baptism. I am not trusting anything I've ever done or ever will do. I am trusting Jesus Christ. I am trusting Him. He is the only One I am trusting to save me. He is the only One who can save me. Now, Jesus, You said if I would confess you before men, You would confess me before the Father. Now I have done it. I have told the people that You are my Saviour, and I am trusting You. Now I want you to—oh, I don't have to worry about it, You will do what You said You would do. But He said that if we deny Him before men, He will deny us before our Father in Heaven. Now you had better trust Him and confess Him.

Years ago there lived over in Alabama an old-time country preacher. This preacher died. He was a great old man. Some time after he died, one of his best friends who lived in a nearby community was dying. This preacher's friend was in a state of coma for a day or two, and just before he died, he seemed to come back to earth, and he said, "You know, I had the most wonderful dream. It must have been a dream. I thought I was standing in the presence of God, and so many people there, I couldn't see all of them. As far as the eye could see there were crowds and crowds and crowds, waiting for their names to be called. When they called my name, my good friend, brother so-and-so, who died and went to Heaven a few weeks ago, said, 'Nothing against him.'"

I thought: That is a wonderful story—"Nothing against him." As the years have piled up and I have thought it over and studied the Bible, I realize that is a good thing, but it is not all you need—not for judgment. That won't get you by. There may be nothing against you in the opinion of somebody else, but you know something against yourself. And Jesus knows something against you. What I want is to have Jesus say, "Nothing against him."

### Jesus, the Sinner's Only Hope

You can have that experience. He bore your sin in His body on the cross. He died for you. He was wounded for your transgressions and bruised for your iniquities. He who knew no sin was made to be sin for you. He bore your sin in His body on the cross. And if you will trust Him, in that blessed day when you have to meet Him, He will stand up there and say, "Nothing against him." If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." He is my attorney. He is my lawyer. I am trusting Jesus Christ as my Saviour.

Whom are you trusting? Have you settled it? Have you surrendered to Him? If not, don't you go out of this room with out doing

it. God may have sent you this message just at this time to stop you. You can get right with God. Get right with Him. Trust Him as your Saviour. Don't take any chance with your soul.

Will you do it? Say yes to Jesus. Tell Him, "I trust You, I'm a sinner. I can't save myself, but I trust You to save me." He said, "Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out." He wants to save you, and He will save you right now if you will trust Him to do it. God help you to do it.

### Be Saved Today!

The above sermon on "Judgment," by Dr. Bob Jones, is taken from a film sermon, black and white, about 30 minutes, which may be rented from Unusual Films, Bob Jones University, Greenville, South Carolina. But some poor, lost sinner has read this sermon. And I urge you, dear unsaved reader, to turn to Christ today.

Do you realize that your sins will damn you forever if you die without Christ? Are you willing to honestly confess to God that you are a sinner who needs a Saviour? Will you now in your heart turn to Jesus, honestly repenting of your sin, and trusting Him to save you? The moment you turn with penitent heart, to depend upon Jesus Christ and rely upon Him, that moment He will save you. I beg you to make that holy decision in your heart. Then sign and copy the following statement in a letter to the Editor: Oh, turn to Jesus today! Now here's the statement I hope you will make from your heart, and sign and copy and mail in a letter to me.

Evangelist John R. Rice, Editor  
THE SWORD OF THE LORD  
214 West Wesley  
Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Brother Rice:

I have read Dr. Bob Jones' sermon on "Judgment." I realize that I am a poor, lost sinner. I know Dr. Jones' message is true. Oh, I need forgiveness for my sins and need Someone to stand for me. I want to be saved today. So here and now I confess myself a sinner. This moment I turn to Christ in my heart, depending on Him to forgive my sins and save my soul. I give Him my heart forever. I will claim Him as my Saviour, and I will set out to live for Him today.

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

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